

THE AGITATION IN IRELAND.

ENGLISH VIEWS OF IRISH TROUBLES.—THE LONDON TIMES ON AGRARIAN OUTRAGES—THE STANDARD'S CATALOGUE OF MR. BENCE-JONES'S CRIMES—A SALUTARY EXAMPLE—PUBLIC SYMPATHY FOR CAPTAIN BOYCOTT.

[FROM THE REGULAR CORRESPONDENT, OF THE TRIBUNE.]

LONDON, Dec. 23.—*The Times*, which has of late

taken a more definite line in favor of strong measures for keeping order in Ireland, has a remark

this week which deserves the attention of Ameri-

cans enthusiasts in behalf of the oppressed human

We have censured, says that journal, to look for sen-

sational incidents, for fresh accounts daily of

outrage and violence against individuals. It means

that there is no longer need of them. They were

useful, in the opinion of those who set such agita-

tion in motion, to spread abroad a conviction of the

irresistible power of the Land League. Their object

was to enforce obedience to the decrees of that

body by inspiring terror. So long as there were

symptoms of opposition, so long as landlords tried

to insist on their rent being paid, or so long as

tenants were perverse enough to wish to pay the

money they owed, victims were from time to time

sought and offered up. But the work has been

done, the desired impression created. Terror reigns

in Ireland as order reigned in Warsaw; and by

much the same means, though the result has been

obtained with a less lavish expenditure of force.

It is not to the ex-Chief Secretary of Ireland, Mr.

James Lowther, that one goes most eagerly for wise

views of Irish affairs. But it is open to question

whether Mr. James Lowther did not come near the

truth in his recent speech when he observed that

his real successor in office was Mr. Parnell.

This view of *The Times* is striking. If it does not

accord quite strictly with the facts, it is not that

the reign of terror is less stringent than it is repre-

sented, but because it is not easy to tie up the

hours when they have once been let loose. It is

easy to say to an excited and often distressed

tenantry: Arise; keep a firm grip on the land; prevent evictions; allow no tenant to occupy a farm

from which another has been turned out; pay no

rent above Griffith's valuation, and make war on

whoever refuses to carry out these orders or to obey

them. It is easy to stir up angry feelings by great

meetings and by passionate manifestos. It is not

easy to control the agencies thus set in motion, or

to allay the storm that has been raised. An Irish-

man with a rifle and a grievance is likely to keep

the one loaded after the other has been disposed

of. And a loaded rifle, as everybody knows, will

sometimes go off in an unaccountable manner. So

a master or two does occur, though not much is

now to be gained by bringing that form of persuasion

to bear on landlords; or not much except the

gratification of private vengeance and the indul-

gence of a natural ferocity of character.

The oppressed tenant and his numerous organs in

the press point to the case of Mr. Bence-Jones as a

proof that landlord tyranny is still potent and pitiful.

Mr. Bence-Jones is a man of exceptional

firmness of character and strength of body; a good

shot, moreover, and his son possessing the same

despotic qualities. Mr. Bence-Jones's neighbors

and laborers are on the other hand of softer stuff

than those among whom Captain Boycott's lot was

cast. The attempt to boycott Mr. Bence-Jones

broke out, temporarily. Whereupon the organiza-

ers broke against him for refusing to be Boycotted

peaceably. They cry out with equal vigor to

English hearers that Boycotting cannot, after all,

be such a terrible business since one man has

been found able to stand up against it. I know of

nothing more extraordinary than some of the com-

ments to which this case has given rise. When Mr.

Bence-Jones first stated his case, it reawakened the

indignation stirred by the cowardly way Captain

Boycott himself. Sympathy with Mr. Bence-

Jones was general, and was very strongly ex-

pressed. But indignation and sympathy sprung, I

should have supposed, from a sense of the treat-

ment to which he had been subjected, his courage

in defending himself, and from a consideration of

the ultimate losses as well as the immediate dan-

ges and annoyances to which he was exposed. But

presently appears a letter giving further partici-

pants about Mr. Bence-Jones, and repeating some of

the country-side gossip about him. He is not, we

now meet, at all a sympathetic sort of person. He is

aristocratic in manner; he befriends his equals and

inferiors alike; he has the assumption to have

opinions of his own and to express them; he has

been known to differ from his brother magnates

on the bench, and is 44th century guilty of

that rashness which all these, that of using

the imperative mood in commanding his slaves

to his own servants and laborers. The journal

which publishes this black catalogue of Mr. Bence-

Jones's crimes adds the comment that they must

considerably diminish the interest taken by the

public in his case. It is not often that a man in

such a position makes so foolish a remark. Mr. Bence-

Jones doubtless has, as most of us in this world

know, what our French neighbors call the defects

of his qualities. When Buzayne sent home his

account of Saratoga, the clemence and grace of his

narrative were much admired. But it was re-

marked by a brutal critic that he had better have

missed every word of his dispatch and beaten

the enemy. If Mr. Bence-Jones had had all the

accomplishments of a dancing master, he might

have probably put up with his Boycotting neatly,

but he would have been compelled to do it peace-

ably. Others will think that he might have

done it more easily if he had been a master of

politics. The *Times* has been overjoyed to learn

that he has been beaten by a master of politics.

PHASES OF THE WEATHER.

SANDY HOOK, N. J., Jan. 13.—One thousand

feet of the railway wharf has been carried away by

the battering of the outflowing ice. The ocean is frayed

and torn by the ice, and the water is

now 10° below zero. The temperature ranges

from 10° to 15° below zero.

TOFINO, N. J., Jan. 13.—The waters of Staten

Island Sound are a solid frozen mass from this point

to Staten Island, Bayway Creek, Bayway River and

Woodbridge Creek are closed to navigation, and

the temperature is 20° below zero in Michigan, and 6°

below zero at Keokuk, and 10° below at St. Paul.

Indicates.

For New-England and the Middle States, threatening

weather and rain or snow, winds shifting to west and

northwest, decidedly colder weather and falling to low

by rising barometer.

Cautionary Signals.

Cautionary signals continue from Smithville to East-

port, and cautionary off-shore signals continue from

the islands of Grand Manan and Campobello.

TRIBUNE LOCAL OBSERVATIONS:

BOATS.—Morning 12° 1° 3° 4° 5° 6° 7° 8° 9° 10° 11° 12° 13° 14° 15° 16° 17° 18° 19° 20° 21° 22° 23° 24° 25° 26° 27° 28° 29° 30° 31° 32° 33° 34° 35° 36° 37° 38° 39° 40° 41° 42° 43° 44° 45° 46° 47° 48° 49° 50° 51° 52° 53° 54° 55° 56° 57° 58° 59° 60° 61° 62° 63° 64° 65° 66° 67° 68° 69° 70° 71° 72° 73° 74° 75° 76° 77° 78° 79° 80° 81° 82° 83° 84° 85° 86° 87° 88° 89° 90° 91° 92° 93° 94° 95° 96° 97° 98° 99° 100° 101° 102° 103° 104° 105° 106° 107° 108° 109° 110° 111° 112° 113° 114° 115° 116° 117° 118° 119° 120° 121° 122° 123° 124° 125° 126° 127° 128° 129° 130° 131° 132° 133° 134° 135° 136° 137° 138° 139° 140° 141° 142° 143° 144° 145° 146° 147° 148° 149° 150° 151° 152° 153° 154° 155° 156° 157° 158° 159° 160° 161° 162° 163° 164° 165° 166° 167° 168° 169° 170° 171° 172° 173° 174° 175° 176° 177° 178° 179° 180° 181° 182° 183° 184° 185° 186° 187° 188° 189° 190° 191° 192° 193° 194° 195° 196° 197° 198° 199° 200° 201° 202° 203° 204° 205° 206° 207° 208° 209° 210° 211° 212° 213° 214° 215° 216° 217° 218° 219° 220° 221° 222° 223° 224° 225° 226° 227° 228° 229° 230° 231° 232° 233° 234° 235° 236° 237° 238° 239° 240° 241° 242° 243° 244° 245° 246° 247° 248° 249° 250° 251° 252° 253° 254° 255° 256° 257° 258° 259° 260° 261° 262° 263° 264° 265° 266° 267° 268° 269° 270° 271° 272° 273° 274° 275° 276° 277° 278° 279° 280° 281° 282° 283° 284° 285° 286° 287° 288° 289° 290° 291° 292° 293° 294° 295° 296° 297° 298° 299° 290° 291° 292° 293° 294° 295° 296° 297° 298° 299° 300° 301° 302° 303° 304° 305° 306° 307° 308° 3